



**UrbanArt Commission
Public Art Oversight Committee
Wednesday, September 11, 2024 – 1 pm**

In Attendance: Jen Prudhome-Booker, C. Rose Smith, Mario Walker, and Yvonne Jones

UAC staff: Lakeisha Edwards, Richard Echols, Kayla J. Smith-Hardy, Travis Washington

APPROVALS

Smith-Hardy opens the September PAOC meeting thanking everyone for attending.

I. July 2024 Meeting Minutes

Smith-Hardy asks for a motion to approve. Smith approves, Jones second, and the motion passes.

II. August 2024 Meeting Minutes

Smith-Hardy asks for a motion to approve. Jones approves, Smith seconds, and the motion passes.

III. Project Approvals

a. Alcy Ball- Finalist

Echols shares that the Alcy Ball selection committee chose Kirsten Williams sculptural design proposal. Williams created neighborhood markers that embodies neighborhood pride and history. Additionally, Williams' design reflects the goals from the development corporation and hopes for the neighborhood. Echols adds that Williams is an Alcy Ball resident, so there is an authentic connection associated with this project. Williams plans to work with LSI to get the markers fabricated and installed. The neighborhood markers will be installed at Alcy Samuel Park and Alcy Warren Park. Echols shares that it was important to find city owned properties in the neighborhood for these City funds. Echols says that the two markers will have similar designs and color schemes.

Smith asks if incorporating actual florals could be a possibility for this project. Echols responds that it is a conversation to have with the Parks Division, and this is a good idea.

Walker asks if the elements that come off the sides of the sign are easily bent.

Echols responds that the next steps are to see what LSI can do and what they think is more feasible. Maintenance would have to be factored in as well, and LSI will provide recommendations for the best option. Echols asks if there is a motion to approve. Walker motions, Prudhome Booker seconds, and the motion passes.

b. Alonzo Weaver Park- Finalist

Smith-Hardy shares the next approval is for the Alonzo Weaver Park finalists. She says UAC wants to be transparent with PAOC members on the progress of UAC projects. Smith-Hardy states the selected neighborhood partner for this project is WIND Memphis CDC. There has been so much confusion around this City funded public art project not being a grant award that goes directly to the neighborhood partner. Smith-Hardy says the process and allocation of funding for this sculpture has been explained and documented several times, with receipts passed along to UAC's Executive Director, L. Edwards. Smith-Hardy shares she is unsure if the partnership will continue with WIND Memphis CDC or not. However, the selected finalists have done some thorough community engagement efforts before submitting their proposal. Therefore, there can still be a full, engaging selection committee moving forward, regardless if the initial partners choose to continue their participation. Smith-Hardy asks if there are questions or comments about the neighborhood partnership before she starts describing the sculpture proposal.

Edwards chimes in and says she would like to add more context for the PAOC members. Edwards shares that of course UAC does not pay organizations, which this is listed on UAC's website. Edwards states she is thankful for all of the amazing documentation. On UAC's website, it shares that the Neighborhood Art Initiative call is an opportunity for neighborhoods to share ideas. The website page also shares that the neighborhood partners do not have to provide a fully fleshed out proposal, and UAC will pick up the torch to really bring the artwork to fruition. Edwards adds the WIND Memphis CDC leader states that she received an email stating WIND Memphis CDC was chosen for a project and thought that this meant they would receive grant funding for the project. Edwards states there is no such contract or agreement. Additionally, Edwards says Smith-Hardy has all of the Zoom recordings from the selection committee meetings and presentations, which very clearly explains this is a city funded project on city property and is city-owned. Therefore there is a discrepancy between what the neighborhood partner stated they are supposed to receive versus what is the reality of this project scope. Edwards adds that moving forward the Neighborhood Art Initiative will have a memorandum of agreement with the organizations that are engaged from the jump, so there is written agreement on exchange of fees, contracts, and funding. Currently, there is nothing to support what the selected neighborhood partner is requesting. Even with a fully developed proposal, UAC's website states that UAC manages this City project and the neighborhood partner does not get to determine every detail of the project. This is a collective process that has to abide by the City's protocols as well. The project is UAC's and not that of the organization.

Smith-Hardy thanks Edwards for adding some more detailed context. Smith-Hardy asks if there are any questions or comments before moving on to the finalists' proposal. There were some Zoom comments saying okay and thank you for providing these details. This is important to have documented on the PAOC meeting minutes.

Smith-Hardy adds that the finalists are Kristi Duckworth and Jonathan Reid. Smith-Hardy says Duckworth is a practicing visual artist and Reid is a community leader. They partnered to make sure the design for the 38109 area has an intentional design with their engagement efforts. Smith-Hardy shares the initial sketch and sculptural rendering of what the design looks like in

3D. Smith-Hardy notes that the design perhaps looks similar to the sculpture design for JFK Park. She adds she will break down how the designs are different.

Smith-Hardy shares that the proposal started with a land acknowledgement naming the neighborhood and all of our land was a space once primarily inhabited by Indigenous people. The finalists have previously worked with people who are a part of the Chickasaw Nation, as well as the local Native Rites grassroot group. Smith-Hardy adds how the finalists also researched the history of the 2011 flood that impacted Boxtown, Mt. Pisgah, West Junction, and Walker Holmes. A map is shown of the area pre and post flood. The finalists recreated the space of the natural land winding after the flood. The design also is a watershed sculpture as requested on the call to artists. The South Cypress Creek in the park is like no other space in the City. Smith-Hardy shares there is an overall nature theme too throughout the sculpture, as well as community. There are plans to engage with students from Chickasaw Middle, Mitchell High School, and potential Southwest CareerTech students as service learning opportunities giving artistic insight and a chance to learn about some history. The mosaics portion is an opportunity for community members to participate in.

The finalists also spoke to the committee's preference for something that is accessible for aging individuals. So, there will be a resting space for older adults or anybody to sit, reflect, and appreciate the art piece. Smith-Hardy shares that Duckworth and Reid have been communicating with tribe elders who are currently still living in the area or have connections to that space. The finalists also spoke with people from Mitchell Community Center to get some of their input. The design will also reflect the natural plants and wildlife in the area and embody serenity as requested by the selection committee members. Some of the words and themes used in the proposals were gathered from residents and community leaders the finalists spoke to. Duckworth and Reid talked to Indigenous chiefs who are connected to the space including those from Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw. Additionally, they spoke with some community artists they want to work with.

Smith-Hardy says the overall project budget is around \$65,000, and the two finalists received \$500 each for their design proposal. Smith-Hardy shares that she thinks Duckworth and Reid did a pretty good job incorporating all what was asked in the call to artists in terms of design, serenity, nature, and community engagement. Smith-Hardy asks if there are any questions and comments regarding the design.

Smith asks if the rendering slide could be pulled back up. Smith-Hardy states to the left is going to be the mosaic space, then benches, and then wildlife representation with some trees. Smith asks about the dimensions for the sculpture. Smith-Hardy responds there are no dimensions featured just yet from the proposal.

Edwards asks about the difference between the depth of this sculpture and how it is sitting on the ground. The JFK Park sculpture seems to have more walls. Smith-Hardy responds that the JFK Park is Washington's project, so she is less familiar with the actual design elements. Smith-Hardy agrees that Alonzo Weaver Park sculpture seems more dynamic with elements coming out of the base. Edwards adds that UAC is still waiting for a formal response that closes out the citizen's complaint. Edwards is speaking with Legal to ensure UAC proceeds in a way that is agreed upon between UAC and the City of Memphis. Once there is verbiage and a recommended path forward, UAC will then proceed and update selection committee members and PAOC.

Smith-Hardy adds that the selected artists also sent over contact information for a potential new selection committee member who works in the area and will be engaged and excited for this project. Smith-Hardy asks if there are any questions or comments or a motion to approve Duckworth and Reid as the Alonzo Weaver Park sculpture finalists. Walker motions to approve, Jones seconds, and the motion passes.

c. Orange Mound Library and Genealogy Center- Schematic Design

Smith-Hardy shares the next approval is for schematic design for the Orange Mound Library. The selected artist from the national call is Daniel Moore from Phoenix, Arizona. The selection committee is planning out two community engagement events. The first event will take place in October virtually during Orange Mound in October activities. UAC will table there, and it is a chance for people to meet Moore and be introduced to the sculpture design. Then in February, the selection committee members will host an in-person gathering, and Moore will travel to Memphis. Smith-Hardy explains the design concept for the Orange Mound Library and Genealogy Center. The numbers shown are 1890, which is the year Orange Mound was established, and 39, which is the first plot number purchased in the neighborhood by Ms. Alice Speggins from E.E. Meachem. The design is shaped like books to represent the library and the building being the original Melrose High School building. The design also includes the osage orange, which is native to Orange Mound. There are multiple silhouettes reflecting the multigenerational Orange Mound residents. The colors of maroon and gold represent Melrose school colors. Surrounding the sculpture, there is a double helix pattern that represents the genealogy center connecting to DNA. The genealogy center is there getting more people grounded to their roots and being proud to be from Orange Mound. On the side of the books are quotes from Larry Finch, who attended University of Memphis and is native to Orange Mound. The quote reads, "This is my heart right here, Orange Mound, Tennessee. There would never be a place like Orange Mound. Everything in this city starts and ends with Orange Mound." Smith-Hardy shares that the sculpture location will be at the front entrance of the library. The breakdown of the budget totals \$100,000. There will be gravel at the bottom with embedded black beach pebbles. The materials used will be oxidized steel, concrete, and solar powered LED lights. Smith-Hardy also shares the dimensions and diameter as required by the call to artists. There will be an oxidized finish, and the Melrose colors will be powder coated.

Walker asks if there will be a solar panel offsite that will power these, or is there something that is built into the fixture. Smith-Hardy responds that there will be a built-in fixture and will confirm this. Walker states that he wants to see how reliable it will be over time, especially since the building cast has a lot of shadow. Walker adds that most of the day there will be a shadow over the sculpture with the trees facing east. The trees will not allow much more additional light, so this is something to consider for a long term longevity of lighting at night. One option could be a solar panel inside that could power the sculpture, but this would have to be wired. Wiring would be a challenge since the circle concrete base is already poured. Walker shares that he did not think power had connected to that location but this could be asked. This might be something that could be caught now with the construction crew still onsite. If power could be reached to that sculpture location, Walker shares that it would be a lot more efficient as far as lighting at night.

Smith-Hardy shows slides on how the sculpture will be assembled. Moore proposes plated steel and lock nuts that will be used to make sure everything is in place. Solar lights will be constructed with cast aluminum housing. The integrated lithium ion battery pack is engineered to last for five years or roughly 2000 cycles. Smith-Hardy shares the maquette UAC has from Moore. The maquette will go with the UAC team to show others what the sculpture looks like in

3D. Little maintenance would be required only rising with water. The longevity is up to 80 years. Moore stated in the proposal that he is available, and it should take him six to eight months in entirety to complete the process depending on availability. With this timeline, Smith-Hardy states this sculpture coming to Park and Airways goes well with Orange Mound's 135th anniversary in 2025.

Walker states the design looks really good. Smith-Hardy asks if there are any further questions or comments before a motion to approve. Smith motions, Jones seconds, and the motion passes.

d. South City: Accelerate- 50%

Washington shares that this approval is for 50% for the South City Accelerate project with Suzy Hendrix. Hendrix is known for her mosaics and stained glass and has been working diligently even though a portion of the sculpture was taken when her car was stolen. Fortunately, all components were found. Construction has been delayed, so this has prevented Suzy from being on the site. The construction company had to fire some of their crew, and they stole some of the parts. Washington states this is being rectified. Washington shares that he has recently talked to the project manager with MMC and the structural engineer. They all want to make sure they have all of the parts for reattachment with a pedestal. Hendrix had some specialized bolts that were stolen, but they have found an alternative option. Washington says UAC is working with Ozer Engineering who will make sure the structural needs are still met for this project. The tree portions will be installed off of Mississippi Blvd. All of the stained glass pieces are fabricated, and all of the framework has been welded together. The iron worker has also formed essentially everything. Washington shares that Hendrix subcontracted Anthony Lee, who is doing the mural portion. The murals will be under the viaduct and underpass at the back end of Mississippi Blvd. Once construction is finished, Hendrix would be ready to complete installation. Washington asks if there is a motion to approve. Walker motions to approve, Prudhome seconds, and the motion passes.

UPDATES

IV. Other Project Updates

a. Greenlaw Park- three finalists selected

Smith-Hardy shares another neighborhood art initiative project that is moving forward. Greenlaw Park is getting a sculpture coming to the intersection of 4th Street and Greenlaw. The neighborhood partners are Black Seeds Urban Farm. Smith-Hardy adds Black Seeds is a great group who focuses on food justice for the Greenlaw/Uptown area. The selection committee has reviewed applications and chosen their top three finalists. The finalists are Eli Gold, Kristi Duckworth, and Besada Yakoub. Smith-Hardy states that at this stage, there are no proposals. These top three finalists were selected to create a site specific design and will receive a \$1,000 honorarium once they submit proposals.

b. Jesse Turner Park- Engineering Updates

Smith-Hardy gives a shout out to Mike Lemm from the City's Engineering Division for noticing a discrepancy between the fabricated pieces and stamped engineering drawings for the Jesse Turner Park sculpture. Smith-Hardy states Lemm saw that the fabricated pieces from the artist, Maxwell Emcays, had less frames than what was sketched in the engineering drawings. First, Lemm says we have to ensure the sculpture is fundamentally sound. Also, the fabricated pieces must match the stamped drawings, so new stamped drawings are needed to reflect the 50% of pieces that are already created. Once the new engineering drawings are received, this project can move forward with the approval from the City's Engineering Division.

c. Carpenter Art Garden- Design Updates

Washington shares that Carpenter Art Garden has had quite a bit of staff turnover due to various circumstances. Carpenter Art Garden has a new director and essentially a new staff. Their director would like to revisit the sculpture design and add their own spin to it. Washington adds that the Carpenter Art Garden team wants to keep the essentials of the project's theme and background but increase community engagement. More workshops are on the way to involve more neighborhood residents, and there are plans to bring a new mosaic artist to finish the remaining tiles. Suzy Hendrix stepped down as the contracted mosaic artist for this project. Washington adds that the sculptural pieces of the trees will still be used and was fabricated by LCS Designs, artist Lorenzo Scruggs. Washington shares that he wanted to notify PAOC members now that some more edits are on the way for the Carpenter Art Garden sculpture project.

V. Maintenance Updates

- Greely Myatt- Quilt Surround

Washington states UAC has been working to address maintenance needs for a few of the larger, public facing City-owned pieces. The quilt sculpture outside of City Hall is being repaired currently on the front side.

- Tootsie Bell: Legends Park Bees

Washington shares that the bees to this sculptural piece have been remounted and looks great.

- John Golightly: Black Bayou Railing

Washington says most of the fabrication repair of the railing system has begun. Washington adds there is a wait on cleaning the overgrown shrubs and trees by the City, but progress has been made. Washington states UAC is consistently reviewing the maintenance list to make sure pieces are up to par as they should be. Washington encourages PAOC members to send in photos when they see some of the City-owned public art pieces need attention. Edwards adds that UAC will take care of maintenance as funds are available. UAC has an annual budget of \$35,000 for maintenance, and some projects need \$60,000-\$100,000 worth of repair.

Smith-Hardy adjourns the meeting.

[Upcoming \(Zoom\) Meeting Dates @ 1:00 PM:](#)

October 9, 2024